

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Hoisting frame for transferring containers, the hoisting frame comprising:

means, arranged on an upper side of the frame, for connecting the frame to at least two hoisting cables suspended at a mutual distance in a longitudinal direction of the hoisting frame; and

means, arranged on an underside of the frame, for picking up at least one secondary hoisting frame, which secondary hoisting frame has twist-locks for picking up at least one container, a transverse dimension of the secondary hoisting frame corresponding substantially with a transverse dimension of a container,

_____ wherein the frame is adjustable in a transverse direction between a retracted position, in which a transverse dimension of the frame is at most equal to that of the secondary hoisting frame and the container, and an extended position in which the transverse dimension is larger than that of the secondary hoisting frame, and wherein the means for picking up are for picking up a single secondary hoisting frame in the retracted position and for picking up two mutually adjacent secondary hoisting frames in the extended position.

2. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frame is divided in the longitudinal direction, the frame parts are movable relative to each other at least in

the transverse direction and the means for picking up includes a number of pick-up elements distributed over the frame parts.

3. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:
controllable means for moving the frame parts away from and toward each other.

4. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 3, wherein the
controllable means includes at least one member of adjustable length which connects the frame
parts.

5. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 4, wherein the
controllable means includes at least one actuator co-acting with the at least one connecting
member.

6. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least
one connecting member is a pivotable arm.

7. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 6, wherein the arm is
pivotable substantially parallel to a main plane of the hoisting frame.

8. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least
one pivotable arm is connected to the frame part via a pivot, and the actuator is arranged between
the arm and the pivot.

9. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least two pivotable arms are included, each moveable by at least one associated actuator.

10. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least two actuators are connected to at least one of the pivotable arms.

11. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pivotable arms are arranged substantially symmetrically relative to a transverse centre line of the hoisting frame, and wherein the arms on opposite sides of the hoisting frame are pivotable in opposite directions.

12. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 6, wherein each pivotable arm is substantially symmetrical relative to a longitudinal centre line of the hoisting frame.

13. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 2, wherein the connecting means are for connecting the hoisting frame to at least two pairs of hoisting cables suspended at a distance from each other in the longitudinal direction of the hoisting frame, and are divided in the longitudinal direction such that each frame part is connectable to at least two hoisting cables.

14. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 13, wherein the connecting means includes cable pulleys, and wherein each frame part carries at least two cable pulleys placed at a distance from each other in longitudinal direction.

15. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 14, wherein the pick-up elements are placed substantially straight under the cable pulleys in the extended position of the hoisting frame.

16. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 2, wherein the extended position the frame is adjustable in the transverse direction in order to vary a space between the two secondary hoisting frames.

17. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 2, wherein the frame parts are pivotable relative to each other in the plane of the hoisting frame.

18. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 2, wherein the frame parts are pivotable relative to each other transversely of the plane of the hoisting frame.

19. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 14, further comprising at least one actuator arranged between the rotation axis of one of the cable pulleys and the frame part.

20. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 2, wherein the frame parts are movable relative to each other in the longitudinal direction.

21. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secondary hoisting frame is adjustable in the longitudinal direction.

22. (Previously Presented) Method for transferring loads, comprising the steps of:

- a) lowering a hoisting frame as claimed in claim 1 at a first location,
- b) picking up one load at the first location when the hoisting frame is retracted, or two loads when the hoisting frame is extended,
- c) lifting the hoisting frame with the picked-up at least one load,
- d) displacing the hoisting frame with the picked-up at least one load to a second location,
- e) lowering the hoisting frame with the picked-up at least one load at the second location,
- f) uncoupling the at least one load from the hoisting frame,
- g) lifting the hoisting frame,
- h) moving the hoisting frame from its retracted to its extended position or from its extended to its retracted position, wherein a secondary hoisting frame is coupled on or uncoupled, and
- i) repeating steps (a) to (g).

23. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 5, wherein the at least one connecting member is a pivotable arm.

24. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one pivotable arm is connected to the frame part via a pivot, and the actuator is arranged between the arm and the pivot.

25. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 7, wherein the at least one pivotable arm is connected to the frame part via a pivot, and the actuator is arranged between the arm and the pivot.

26. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pivotable arms are arranged substantially symmetrically relative to a transverse centre line of the hoisting frame, and wherein the arms on opposite sides of the hoisting frame are pivotable in opposite directions.

27. (Previously Presented) Hoisting frame as claimed in claim 18, further comprising at least one actuator arranged between the rotation axis of one of the cable pulleys and the frame part.

28. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the method is for transferring containers.

29. (New) Combination of a primary hoisting frame and at least one secondary hoisting frame,

wherein the primary hoisting frame comprises:

means, arranged on an upper side of the frame, for connecting the frame to at least two hoisting cables suspended at a mutual distance in a longitudinal direction of the hoisting frame; and

means arranged on an underside of the frame, for picking up the at least one secondary hoisting frame; and

wherein the at least one secondary hoisting frame comprises twist-locks for picking up at least one container, the at least one secondary hoisting frame having a transverse dimension that is substantially equal to a transverse dimension of the at least one container;

wherein the primary hosting frame is adjustable in a transverse direction between a retracted position, in which a transverse dimension of the frame is at most equal to that of the at least one secondary hoisting frame and the least one container, and an extended position in which the transverse dimension is larger than that of the at least one secondary hoisting frame, and wherein the means for picking up are for picking up a single secondary hoisting frame in the retracted position and for picking up two mutually adjacent secondary hoisting frames in the extended position.

30. (New) Combination as claimed in claim 29, wherein the primary hoisting frame is divided in the longitudinal direction, the frame parts are movable relative to each other at least in the transverse direction and the means for picking up includes a number of pick-up elements distributed over the frame parts.

31. (New) Combination as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

controllable means for moving the frame parts from and toward each other.

32. (New) Combination as claimed in claim 31, wherein the controllable means includes at least one member of adjustable length which connects the frame parts.

33. (New) Combination as claimed in claim 32, wherein the controllable means includes at least one actuator co-acting with the at least one connecting member.

34. (New) Combination as claimed in claim 33, wherein the at least one connecting member is a pivotable arm.